

Cambridge Committee on Public Planting Minutes

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Present: David Lefcourt, Michael Hanlon, Gitte Venicx, Johan Paulsson, Wayne Marshall, Maggie Booz, Janet Burns, Emily Axelrod, Jonathan Lewis, Kathleen Caldera, Paula Cortez, Nancy Phillips, Chantal Eide

Minutes taken by Gitte Venicx

Arborist updates

- Will start spring planting in next couple of weeks. Faucett and Smith place will be planted next Monday, Murray Hill Road next few weeks. Some bare root planning of honeylocust, variety is 'street keeper' that requires less pruning, and a few other new varieties.
- David went to Central Nursery in Rhode Island to pick out trees. He was satisfied with the selection and condition of the nursery.
- Tree pruning continues in Cambridgeport, Tobin school, Longfellow Park, Cambridge cemetery, golf course, and Raymond park.
- Trees in front of the Fogg Museum appear to have died. This is the second set of trees planted in this location that have died quickly. David will follow up with the planting contractor about this.
- 2 water by bike interns this summer, the interview process will start soon for those positions.
- Tree hearing scheduled for Tuesday June 3 for 3 trees, 225 Lakeview, 12 Grozier, and 9 Reed Street.
- Rutgers dogwood is not a preferential tree to plant because of its vase shaped form. David would like to find some street tree friendly dogwoods.
- working with Janet to get CPGC response
- table UVM study
- has followed up with community development about replacement for Taha, have not heard from Owen yet

Cambridge Common – getting ready to break ground soon. Newport Construction has the contract. Doing a walk through next week. The project has been in process for about 20 years and goal is to update the park. Pulled up a plan of the design plan that was dated December 13, 2012 from DPW website. The project is scheduled to take 1.5 to 2 years.

Earthwatch update – Gitte and Earthwatch have been working with David on measuring and assessing the trees throughout Cambridge. We are doing this through citizen science where we bring people from all walks of life out to map and measure the trees. First set of data collected was in 2012, we measured 5% of street trees in the city. These trees were previously measured by David in 2008. In 2013 we measured all of the young trees, trees planted by David during his tenure as Cambridge Arborist. Dr. Vanessa Boukili will present at next month's meeting and share the results of these studies. All of the data collected can be viewed online at www.mytreetracker.org. More citizen science events are scheduled for this summer and fall, anyone is welcome to join and encouraged to bring friends. Contact Gitte gvenicx@earthwatch.org for more information or sign up online <http://earthwatch.org/expeditions/exploring-bostons-urban-forest>, with the promo code TREES.

Bees in the city. How are they doing? Michael has friends who keep bees and they are experiencing colony collapse. City council order a few years ago about banning imidacloprid. DL to look into if the rule applies to public and private use. Michael propose that Cambridge comes up with a fund for residents to keep bees. In several neighboring towns the urban agriculture and bee issues are often taken up by these committees. Recently a task force has been formed around urban agriculture. It was suggested that we contact this task force. DL has a contact in California who is also an arborist and is keeping bees as part of his role. Johan knows that there are several bee hives on roofs of Harvard buildings.

Question about **Asian Longhorned Beetle** eradication declaration for greater boston area. David thinks this is likely correct because the regulations to make this declaration are fairly strict. Cambridge was never declared a quarantine zone, it was not found here.

Water Your Trees Billboard

- important to show a picture of a tree
- important to show where to put the hose in the gator bag
- could take time to rip labels off of gator bags and put labels on them that point to the place to put the hose
- kids love to water trees – proposed to contact schools and day cares could make this a project to take the kids out to water trees
- focus on watering young trees especially those with gator bags
- article in the Metro or other small newspapers about things you can do for the trees
- everyone email feedback to Dave
- complaints dave gets are that “we aren’t filling the gator bags enough” but since it only needs to be filled once a week during hot weeks, its only full 4-10 hours a week.